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s/ Jan Hostasa  
Jan Hostasa

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Rajendran S. Michael et al. : Examiner: Alicia Ann, Chevalier  
Serial No.: 10/039,055 : Group Art Unit: 1772  
Filed: December 31, 2001 :  
For: VEHICLE ENERGY :  
ABSORBING ELEMENT :

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the claims:

1. (currently amended): An energy-absorbing element capable of absorbing a portion of impact energy created during a collision, the energy-absorbing element comprising at least one layer of composite material having a semi-compacted thickness less than an initial prepared thickness comprising a mixture of mineral fibers and organic fibers.

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2. (currently amended): An energy absorbing element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mineral fibers and said organic fibers are entangled as composite material